

Marconi : the Irish connection. Michael Sexton. *Four Courts*. 156 pp €14.95 £14.95 pb 24 cm 1-85182-841-9; €30 £30 hb —840-0. *Broadcasting and Irish Society series*. The marvellous Marconi from his (part Irish) ancestry, early years in Italy and England, his significant experiments at the Kingstown Regatta, and introducing an unsung hero of wireless telegraphy, Edwin Glanville. The short and undemanding study describes and illustrates Marconi's wireless station at Crookhaven (1901-22), recounts his first marriage to Beatrice O'Brien and events up to his death in 1937. Good photographs including one with Mussolini. Some turn-of-the-century articles for popular and more technical readership (not particularly relating to Ireland) are reproduced as appendices to show in particular the failure of experienced physicists up to that time to distinguish between induction and radiation, their belief in the existence of 'ether' and Marconi's critical contribution in respect of tuning receivers. What extraordinary development, comparable with parallel growth in aeronautic technology, has followed in these past hundred years! How excited and amazed Guglielmo would have been to see our colour television set. ♣ ♪ ✨ ✓